

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ISO-00 /055 R

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P 291936Z APR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: RIO TREATY

REFERENCE: STATE A-97 OF JAN. 3, 1975

1. THE OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORMING THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM MADE A NUMBER OF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A DRAFT PROTOCOL OF AMENDMENT TO THE RIO TREATY. THOSE AMENDMENTS ARE AS DESCRIBED IN THE REFERENCED MESSAGE, EXCEPT THAT THE GUIDELINES FOR THE TREATY'S ZONE OF COVERAGE (ARTICLE 4) HAVE BEEN REFINED SO THAT THE ZONE WOULD INCLUDE CANADA. THE MOST IMPORTANT PROPOSED CHANGE IS TO ALLOW SANCTIONS TO BE LIFTED BY SIMPLE MAJORITY OF MEMBERS, RATHER THAN TWO-THIRDS AS AT PRESENT.

2. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WHICH OPENS MAY 8 MUST DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE'S RECOMMENDATIONS. A VARIETY OF OPTIONS ARE OPEN TO THE ASSEMBLY -- E.G., A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SPECIAL CONFERENCE OR SPECIAL OASGA FOR FINAL DRAFTING AND

SIGNATURE, CONTINUATION OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE, REFERRAL TO THE PERMANENT COUNCIL, A DRAFTING GROUP AT THE ASSEMBLY ITSELF. FYI. PERU AND PERHAPS A FEW OTHERS MAY HOLD THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE ON RIO TREATY REFORM UNTIL A BROADER REFORM OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM (INCLUDING A

CONVENTION ON COLLECTIVE ECONOMIC SECURITY HAS BEEN APPROVED. END FYI.

3. THE U.S. BELIEVES THAT A SPECIAL DRAFTING CONFERENCE IS THE BEST SOLUTION. THERE HAS BEEN TALK OF THE ASSEMBLY AGREEING TO SUCH A CONFERENCE AT AN EARLY DATE IN A LATIN COUNTRY. WE COULD SUPPORT SUCH A MOVE. MANY OF THE OTHER PROBLEMS ON THE COMMITTEE'S AGENDA ARE MUCH FURTHER FROM SOLUTION AND WE SEE NO NEED TO DELAY THE RIO TREATY REFORMS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE DISCUSS THIS MATTER IN A LOW-KEY MANNER, GIVING OUR VIEWS AND SOLICITING THE VIEWS OF THE HOST GOVERNMENT.

5. FOR SAN JOSE: IN HIS MOST RECENT VISIT TO WASHINGTON WE ASKED FACIO IF COSTA RICA WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HOSTING A CONFERENCE TO AMEND THE TREATY. HE RESPONDED AFFIRMATIVELY. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ANY FURTHER THOUGHTS HE MAY HAVE ON THIS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MEETINGS, AMENDMENTS, RIO TREATY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE099576
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: TETAYLOR/ATP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750150-0687
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975046/aaaaafsb.tel
Line Count: 87
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-97, 75 OF JA3, 75 1975
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: RIO TREATY
TAGS: PFOR, OCON, XS, XM, XL, OAS
To: ALL POSTS USCINCSO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006